



EMPOWERING LEADERS

Annual Impact Report July 2025 to June 2026





Foreword

Over the past year I have worked from London, Jeddah, and Shenzhen, and I will shortly be in San Francisco. Four cities that could hardly be more different in language, capital, culture, and pace. What has struck me is not the difference. It is how quickly, in each one, someone has opened a door and unlocked new perspectives and opportunities.

That is not luck, and it is not a feature of any single city. It is what a network is for, and it is the principle OPEN was founded on nearly thirty years ago: that people who have made the journey should make it shorter for those coming behind them. OPEN now spans more than fifteen chapters across the UK, North America, the Middle East, and Pakistan. The value of that footprint is not its size. It is that a founder in Karachi, a researcher in London, and an operator in the Bay Area can find one another in a single conversation, and that the person on the other end will pick up.

I have come to hold that principle more firmly this year because of what we are seeing at ZNotes. Building over a decade and impacting over seven million learners in more than 190 countries, the way students approach learning is rapidly changing, and the industry is handing every student their own AI tutor and considering the problem solved. Yet the part of our platform that has grown fastest is the part where students learn together: explaining ideas to one another, being challenged, being wrong in front of a peer and working out why. That is not nostalgia for how learning used to happen. It is where the skills that will matter are formed. As machines take on more of the technical work, what will distinguish people is judgement, the ability to persuade, to collaborate, to read a room and build trust. None of it is learned alone.

The same is true of careers. Capability is becoming abundant, and as it does, the things that determine whether someone gets their chance are increasingly relational: the introduction made at the right moment, the honest assessment from someone who has failed at something similar, the person willing to lend their credibility to someone who has not yet earned their own. These move through communities, or they do not move at all. That is why the work of OPEN London CIC matters and will continue to do so in years to come.

Zubair Junjuna

OPEN London CIC Executive Committee - Youth Initiative, Founder & CEO, ZNotes and, Forbes 30 Under 30 Youth Ambassador



Message from the Chair

Dear All,

It is with immense gratitude and pride that I reflect on the achievements of the [OPEN London CIC](#) Chapter. The remarkable progress we have achieved is a direct testament to the collective vision, dedication, and collaborative spirit of the [OPEN Global](#) network, our Board, and our Charter Members.

I extend my deepest appreciation to our Advisors, Executive Committee, Partners, Sponsors, Supporters, Speakers, Volunteers, and Guests. Your expertise, passion, and generosity have been instrumental in shaping our impactful work and transforming our shared ambition into tangible outcomes for the communities we serve.

This report provides a comprehensive account of a truly transformative year. From our formal launch and flagship programmes to the expansion of our digital footprint, including our enhanced website, social media channels, and recently launched podcast series, we have built a robust foundation for sustained growth. Our focus has been on outcomes, not just activities, measuring the real changes we have enabled for entrepreneurs, professionals, and communities. You will also find a glimpse into our ambitious pipeline of future initiatives designed to deliver even greater value to our community.

Our mission remains clear: to foster global entrepreneurship and drive bilateral trade, business, and investment growth across the [Transatlantic](#) and the [Commonwealth](#). In an era of economic complexity and opportunity, our resolve to serve as a bridge between these ecosystems is stronger than ever.

We deeply value your continued partnership and look forward to reaching new heights together in the year ahead. Thank you for being an essential part of the OPEN London CIC journey.

Sincerely,

Zahra Shah

Chair & President, OPEN London CIC, and Top 100 Influential People Award Winner 2026

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Our Board of Directors, Board Advisors and Executive Committee

Board of Directors



Zahra Shah, Chair & President



Arif Zaman, Board Member



Noor Lalani, Board Member



Hafiz Haq, Board Member



Jawad Khan, Board Member

Board Advisors



Bano Sheikh, Board Advisor



Majid Dawood, Board Advisor



Zafar Masud, Board Advisor

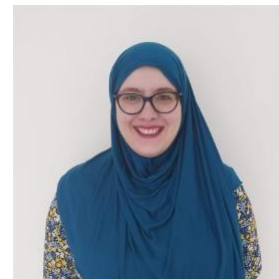
Executive Committee



Zubair Junjuna, Co-Lead
Youth Initiative



Zeba Qureshi, Co-Lead
Women's Initiative



Salma Hussain, Co-Lead
Women's & Youth Initiative

Strategic Vision

As the London Chapter of [OPEN Global](#), a premier, global, non-profit established in Boston in 1998 with a presence spanning over 15 chapters across the UK, North America, the Middle East, and Pakistan - [OPEN London CIC](#) stands at the forefront of fostering inclusive entrepreneurship and professional excellence.

We are a purely volunteer-based non-profit. Our vision is to build a truly global ecosystem that transcends borders, connecting innovators and bridging gaps to create a thriving landscape of opportunity. Our mission is to empower entrepreneurs and professionals at every career stage, providing a collaborative platform for networking, mentorship, and mutual support. We are committed to cultivating a dynamic environment where innovation flourishes, access is equitable, and success is achievable for all.

Strategic Focus and Core Pillars

Our approach focuses on aligning with the UK Government Initiatives and promoting leadership, professional development, and entrepreneurial growth within underrepresented communities, with a particular emphasis on the British Pakistani diaspora. We deliver this impact through a multi-faceted strategy anchored by the [Transatlantic Initiative \(TAI\)](#), inspired by the Mayor of London, deepening UK-US commercial ties, accelerating business growth, complementing the UK Government's **AI Opportunities Action Plan**.¹ As well as championing London's status as a world-class AI and technology hub.

Our work across all four pillars is strategically aligned with UK Government priorities and frameworks and translates our vision into tangible outcomes across the Transatlantic and the Commonwealth ecosystems.

Pillar 1: Transatlantic & Trade Acceleration

Our Transatlantic Initiative (TAI) aligns with the **UK-US Economic Prosperity Deal (EPD)**, a landmark framework designed to reduce tariffs and remove barriers to trade and investment between the **UK and the US**.² Building on this transatlantic foundation, we leverage the **UK-Pakistan Business Advisory Council**³ - established following the inaugural **UK-Pakistan Trade Dialogue in July 2025**⁴ - to facilitate high-value trade and investment by engaging the **1.7 million** British Pakistani diaspora.

This strategic alignment has already contributed to record-breaking results. Bilateral trade between the UK and Pakistan reached £5.5 billion in the four quarters leading to Q2 2025, representing a 14.0% year-on-year increase. Furthermore, **UK exports to Pakistan grew by 24.5%, reaching £3.0 billion**.⁵ Strengthening bilateral investment and knowledge flows across the UK, US, and the Commonwealth, while actively harnessing diaspora expertise and networks to unlock high-growth market opportunities and deepen commercial ties.

Pillar 2: Entrepreneurship & Professional Development

Our work in this pillar aligns with the UK Government's **Backing Your Business: Our Plan for SMEs**⁶, which delivers a comprehensive package of support for small and medium-sized businesses. We complement this national strategy by providing direct access to professional development opportunities that mirror the government's commitment to top-class skills training, as outlined in the **Post-16 Education and Skills White Paper**⁷. Through our curated events, we create the peer-learning and mentoring ecosystems that the new [business.gov.uk](#) single front door for **SMEs** seeks to foster.⁸ Curating high-impact forums, including panel discussions, masterclasses, and roundtables, that catalyze innovation, foster peer-to-peer learning, and equip professionals with the advanced skills and strategic acumen needed to compete in an evolving global economy.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-opportunities-action-plan>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/us-uk-economic-prosperity-deal-epd/general-terms-for-the-united-states-of-america-and-the-united-kingdom-of-great-britain-and-northern-ireland/economic-prosperity-deal-web-accessible-v>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-pakistan-agree-new-business-advisory-council-at-inaugural-trade-dialogue>

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-statement-first-uk-pakistan-trade-dialogue>

⁵ <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6a351b7600f27f06e3efaf7/pakistan-trade-and-investment-factsheet-2026-06-23.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/backing-your-business-our-plan-for-small-and-medium-sized-businesses>

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/post-16-education-and-skills-white-paper>

⁸ <https://civilservice.blog.gov.uk/2025/11/24/mission-moments-cutting-through-complexity-how-were-backing-britains-businesses-to-grow/>

Pillar 3: Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Frontier Technologies

Our AI Initiative complements the UK's ambitious **AI Opportunities Action Plan**⁹, which sets out 50 recommendations to grow the UK's AI sector—a sector that has attracted over **£14 billion** in fresh inward investment since July 2025, equivalent to £200 million per day. Through our partnership with the **Commonwealth Artificial Intelligence Consortium (CAIC)**, we contribute to empowering the **1.5 billion young people** under 30 across the Commonwealth through AI-driven innovation¹⁰.

The **CAIC** was established by the Commonwealth Secretariat, and it serves as a "minilateral" platform offering collective bargaining power and digital cooperation among Commonwealth nations navigating the **complex geopolitics of AI**¹¹. Accelerating innovation at the intersection of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies through strategic partnerships with the **Commonwealth Artificial Intelligence Consortium (CAIC)**, **OPEN Silicon Valley**, **Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB)**, **Ministry of IT and Telecoms Pakistan**, **Tech Destination Pakistan** and **Indus AI Week**, amplifying our reach and influence across North America and the wider Commonwealth. This pillar positions OPEN London CIC at the forefront of a global technological revolution.

Pillar 4: Youth Empowerment, Women Empowerment & Thought Leadership

Crucially our work empowers underrepresented and underserved women of British Pakistani heritage by addressing the intersecting barriers including racism, religious and gender discrimination, and limited workplace flexibility as identified in **The Greater London Authority's 2025 report, Bangladeshi and Pakistani Women in Good Work**¹². It aligns with the **Joint Communiqué between the UK Special Envoy for Women and Girls and the Pakistan Women's Parliamentary Caucus (November 2025)**¹³, which committed both nations to advancing women's economic and business opportunities, promoting equal participation in decision-making, and eradicating all forms of discrimination against women and girls.

Nurturing the next generation of changemakers and women through our partnership with the **Commonwealth Businesswomen's Network (CBWN)**, dedicated online events, mentorship initiatives and a dynamic **podcast** series that amplifies the voices of youth, women, entrepreneurs, creative artists, business leaders, public-sector visionaries, Responsible AI & Frontier Tech Experts (via AI Edition) and Commonwealth thought leaders, fostering intergenerational dialogue and purposeful leadership.

A Pivotal Moment for Global Engagement

We operate at a defining economic juncture. According to the **Department for Business and Trade's Trade and Investment Factsheet (October 2025)**¹⁴, **total UK–Pakistan trade in goods and services reached £5.5 billion in the four quarters to the end of Q2 2025**, a year-on-year increase of 14.0%. UK exports to Pakistan reached £3.0 billion - a 24.5% increase. Under the **Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS)**, 92% of Pakistani goods benefit from tariff free access to the UK. With over 180 million Pakistanis under the age of 30 (representing 65% of the country's population of 242 million), this vast demographic dividend, combined with the preferential market access afforded by **DCTS**, opens a remarkable gateway for deepening bilateral commercial and investment partnerships. Amid global economic volatility, shifting US tariff regimes, climate vulnerabilities, and evolving regional dynamics, this growth trajectory offers OPEN London CIC a uniquely strategic moment to act as a catalyst and bridge between these thriving ecosystems. We invite our partners, members, and stakeholders to join us in this pivotal endeavour.

⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-opportunities-action-plan>

¹⁰ <https://thecommonwealth.org/news/commonwealth-ai-consortium-empower-small-states-and-youth-new-action-plan>

¹¹ <https://thecommonwealth.org/news/ai-governance-through-commonwealth-lens-think-local-code-global>

¹² <https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/communities-and-social-justice/workforce-integration-network-win/bangladeshi-and-pakistani-women-good-work/unlocking-potential>

¹³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-communique-between-the-uk-special-envoy-for-women-and-girls-and-representatives-of-the-pakistan-womens-parliamentary-caucus-25-november-2025>

¹⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/trade-and-investment-factsheets>

Executive Summary

Our most significant achievement this year was a roundtable discussion at the Pakistan High Commission, facilitated by OPEN London CIC, which directly informed **a report with key findings and recommendations to the Government of Pakistan on leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) for healthcare delivery. Suggested improvements are currently being implemented by NADRA, demonstrating tangible policy influence.**

Additionally, our roundtable discussion hosted in partnership with the Commonwealth and Commonwealth Businesswomen's Network (CBWN), led by Zahra Shah at the Commonwealth Secretariat, Marlborough House on **"Why Bridging the AI Divide is a Commonwealth Imperative?" resulted in a report with key findings and recommendations to the Commonwealth Secretariat.** Insights from this report were included in the presentation delivered by Zahra on "The Governance of Agentic AI in the Commonwealth" at the Singapore - Commonwealth Third Country Training Programme on Digital Governance and AI Adoption for Public Service.

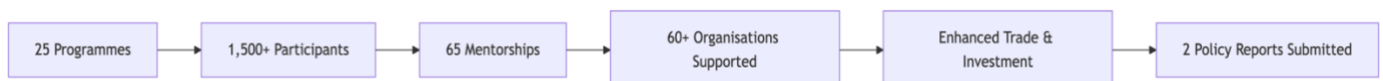
To strengthen the £5.5 billion UK-Pakistan trade corridor, OPEN London CIC hosted an Exclusive Breakfast Session and fireside chat at Visionet UK, featuring senior leaders from enterprises and entrepreneurs. Additionally, we partnered with Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) and Ministry of IT and Telecoms Pakistan on B2B and Fintech roundtables during London Tech Week, successfully facilitating direct, high-level commercial partnerships between UK and Pakistani enterprises.

This inaugural year has been one of substantial delivery. We have built a robust foundation for sustained growth across four strategic pillars, establishing OPEN London CIC as a credible bridge between the UK, North America, and Pakistan.

Key Achievements and Impact

Output (What we did)	Outcome (What changed)
Delivered 25 programme initiatives (Under Transatlantic Initiative, Entrepreneurship & Professional Development Initiative, Artificial Intelligence Initiative, Youth & Women Initiative).	60+ organizations participated / received strategic support.
Produced 19 podcasts	Reached 5000+ listeners.
Facilitated 65 mentorships (Enterprise Day at St. Claudine Catholic Schools for Girls and students from Bloomsbury Institute and other institutions at OPEN London CIC events and initiatives).	Youth and aspiring entrepreneurs gained access to experienced mentors.
Engaged 1500+ attendees/ participants (men, women, and youth)	Expanded professional networks and knowledge.
Hosted 12 partnership events	Formed new partnerships and strengthened UK-Pakistan trade corridor.
Facilitated AI Healthcare Roundtable	Policy report to Government of Pakistan, NADRA implementing suggestions.
Led AI Divide in Commonwealth Roundtable	Report to Commonwealth Secretariat, insights shared at the Singapore – Commonwealth programme.
Engaged 5+ Regions (London/ UK, USA, Canada, Pakistan, Other Commonwealth).	Expanded global business, trade, and investment opportunities.

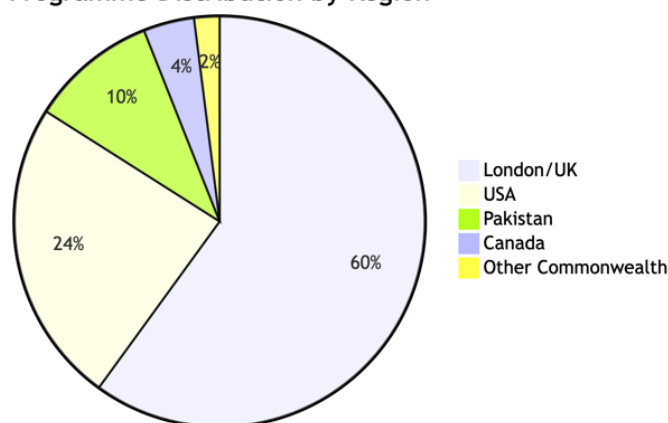
Programme Impact Summary



Key Outcomes

- **AI Leadership:** Established OPEN London CIC as a recognized voice in Responsible AI governance across the Commonwealth.
- **Youth Engagement:** Reached young entrepreneurs through targeted mentorship and initiatives.
- **Women's Empowerment:** Delivered targeted initiatives supporting women entrepreneurs

Programme Distribution by Region



Key Challenges and Lessons Learnt

- **Resource constraints:** Limited funding and operational capacity restricted programme scaling.
- **Digital engagement:** Virtual participation was strong, but in-person attendance requires further development.
- **Impact measurement:** Metrics collection systems have been refined for Year 2.

Financial Position *(Based on the latest unaudited financial statements filed with Companies House [here](#))*

OPEN London CIC maintained prudent financial management. **As of 30 June 2025, the company had current assets of £5,433 and creditors falling due within one year of £2534, resulting in net assets of £2899.** The company operates as a Community Interest Company limited by guarantee with 5 members. Additionally, the company was entitled to an exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, and no remuneration was received by any director during this period. *(Note: Accounts for the most recent year have not yet been filed at Companies House).*

Key priorities for the 2026–27

- **Expand Mentorships, Internships and Work Opportunities:** Increase the number of mentorships and facilitate internships and work opportunities.
- **Enhance Programme Delivery:** Expand delivery to more than 25 initiatives.
- **Secure Charter Members, Sponsorships, In-Kind Support:** Increase charter members, sponsors, and in-kind supporters.
- **Facilitate introductions to investors:** Increase introductions to investors for entrepreneurs culminating in a launch of a peer-to-peer investment showcase to connect entrepreneurs directly with investors.

Our Impact



Beneficiary Impact Case Studies

<i>Case Study 1</i>	
<i>From Roundtable to Policy: AI Healthcare Delivery to Pakistan Government</i>	
Context	In September 2025, OPEN London CIC bridged UK and Pakistan expertise by convening a high-level healthcare roundtable during London Tech Week. Partnering with the Pakistan High Commission, we brought together key figures including H.E. Dr. Mohammad Faisal (High Commissioner of Pakistan), Rt. Hon. Dr. Zubair Ahmed (UK Parliamentary Under Secretary for Health), Dr. Syed Mustafa Kamal (Federal Minister for Health, Pakistan) amongst other speakers. Zahra Shah facilitated this roundtable and presented on “Responsible AI for Healthcare.”
Outcome	The resulting report by Pakistan High Commission was submitted to the Government of Pakistan, and its recommendations are currently being implemented by NADRA.
<i>Case Study 2</i>	
<i>Bridging the AI Divide: Commonwealth Roundtable and Global Influence</i>	
Context	To address equitable AI access and governance, OPEN London CIC partnered with the Commonwealth and the Commonwealth Businesswomen's Network (CBWN). On 15 June 2026, we hosted "Why Bridging the AI Divide is a Commonwealth Imperative" at Marlborough House that was attended by representatives from over 5 Commonwealth governments.
Outcome	The key findings and recommendations were submitted in a report by Zahra Shah to the Commonwealth Secretariat and informed a presentation on “The Governance of Agentic AI in the Commonwealth” delivered at the Singapore – Commonwealth Third Country Training Programme by Zahra Shah that was attended by representatives from over 10 Commonwealth governments.
<i>Case Study 3</i>	
<i>Success Stories: UK and Pakistan Companies – Visionet and PSEB</i>	
Context	To strengthen the £5.5 billion UK-Pakistan trade corridor, OPEN London CIC hosted an Exclusive Breakfast Session and fireside chat at Visionet UK on 31 July 2025, featuring senior leaders from Marks & Spencer and Lock Terrace Ltd. Additionally, we partnered with PSEB on B2B and Fintech roundtables during London

	Tech Week, successfully facilitating direct, high-level commercial partnerships between UK and Pakistani enterprises. Jawad Khan, Zeba Qureshi, and Zahra Shah contributed to these roundtables respectively.
Outcome	Influencing bilateral trade and facilitating connections and collaborations between UK and Pakistan companies.
Case Study 4	<i>Women Entrepreneurs</i>
Context	Through our partnership with the Commonwealth Businesswomen's Network (CBWN), OPEN London CIC provided mentorship and networking opportunities to women entrepreneurs navigating intersecting barriers of race, religion, and gender. The "Moving Beyond Rights on Paper" roundtable at the UN enabled dialogue on practical solutions for women's economic empowerment.
Outcome	20+ participants benefitted from enhanced professional networks and increased confidence in accessing business opportunities. Press release including report from the roundtable by Arif Zaman was published on the OPEN London CIC website and social media platforms.
Case Study 5	<i>Youth Enterprise Development</i>
Context	Through our Youth Initiative, OPEN London CIC delivered enterprise education to students at St. Claudine's Catholic School for Girls, equipping young people with entrepreneurial thinking skills. Arif Zaman and Zahra Shah served as mentors at the Enterprise Day.
Outcome	60+ students gained practical understanding of business planning and career pathways.
Case Study 6	<i>Cross-Border AI Collaboration</i>
Context	Our Responsible AI masterclass, delivered by Zahra Shah to tech companies across Pakistan through the GAIN programme, built capacity in AI governance frameworks.
Outcome	25+ participating tech companies from Pakistan gained actionable insights on responsible AI deployment and policy alignment.

Update on Annual Impact Report, Website, Social Media and Podcasts



Platform	Status
OPEN London CIC Annual Impact Report June 2024 to June 2025	Published on the website here
Website	Launched in January 2025, regularly updated and visit it here
LinkedIn	Active programme updates here
X	Regular engagement here
Instagram	Growing presence here
Facebook	Community building here
YouTube	New channel launched here
Podcasts	Increasing reach here

OPEN London CIC produced 19 podcast episodes hosted by Arif Zaman in 2025-2026, featuring inspirational leaders across business, technology, and social impact that reached over 5000 listeners across various social media platforms.

No.	Podcast	Description	Spotify Link
1	Bloomsbury Radio Business Show AI Edition	Featuring AI Experts, Zahra Shah, Reedah El Saie and Radika Kumar on AI opportunities, challenges, and key trends.	Listen here
2	Business Show with Zafar Masud	Featuring Zafar Masud, on development finance and social impact leadership.	Listen here
3	Business Show on Muslim Tech Fest	Featuring Arfah Farooq, on entrepreneurial ecosystem building.	Listen here
4	Business Show with Beena Sarwar	Featuring Beena Sarwar, on journalism, filmmaking, and activism.	Listen here

No.	Podcast	Description	Spotify Link
5	<i>Business Show on SOAS Gallery Exhibition – Unlayering the future of South Asia – Young Artists’ Voices</i>	Featuring South Asian artists including, Salima Hashmi and Manmeet K Walia on curating a ground-breaking exhibition at the SOAS Gallery.	Listen here
6	<i>Business Show on Commonwealth Innovation Week</i>	Featuring Naila Qazi, Rabia Safi and Zahra Shah, on women entrepreneurship.	Listen here
7	<i>Business Show on Commonwealth Innovation Week</i>	Featuring Commonwealth roundtable discussions on “Innovation and Investment Ecosystem and Diaspora Entrepreneurship for Economic Resilience”.	Listen here
8	<i>Business Show on Commonwealth Innovation Week</i>	Featuring entrepreneur ecosystems in London and Boston from a diaspora perspective.	Listen here
9	<i>Business Show on Commonwealth Innovation Week</i>	Featuring women entrepreneurs, including Reedah El Saie.	Listen here
10	<i>Business Show on Commonwealth Innovation Week</i>	Featuring Pakistan’s EdTech sector and strategic lessons in digital development.	Listen here
11	<i>Business Show on Commonwealth Innovation Week</i>	Featuring entrepreneurship ecosystems and higher education/ youth in London and Lahore with OPEN Global and UMT.	Listen here
12	<i>Business Show on Commonwealth Innovation Week</i>	Featuring conversation with entrepreneurs. Part 1 of 2.	Listen here
13	<i>Business Show on Commonwealth Innovation Week</i>	Featuring conversation with entrepreneurs. Part 2 of 2.	Listen here
14	<i>Business Show on Commonwealth Innovation Week</i>	Featuring Commonwealth Startup Fellowships.	Listen here
15	<i>Business Show on Global Entrepreneurship Week</i>	Featuring Syed Rizwan Ali and Naima Ansari, on Pakistan’s dynamic entrepreneur ecosystem.	Listen here
16	<i>Business Show on Global Entrepreneurship Week</i>	Featuring women entrepreneurs including, Farzana Rahman.	Listen here
17	<i>Business Show on Global Entrepreneurship Week</i>	Featuring Commonwealth entrepreneurs including, Kashif Khan (Pakistan), Dr. Leonie Baldacchino (Malta) and Sachindra Samararatne (Sri Lanka).	Listen here
18	<i>Business Show on Global Entrepreneurship Week</i>	Featuring Commonwealth entrepreneurs including, Adeel Durvesh.	Listen here
19	<i>Business Show on Global Entrepreneurship Week</i>	Featuring Amir Anzur, Maryam Shahzad, Salman Tanveer, Apka Mustakbil and Ahmed Mohsin on Pakistan’s entrepreneurial ecosystem.	Listen here

Programme Delivery Outcomes



<i>Artificial Intelligence (AI) Initiative Pillar</i>				
No	Initiative	Output	Outcome	Link
1	Partnered with UKDHC , AI and Healthcare conference, Royal College of Physicians, London, UK, 22 June 2026	100+ attendees including medical professionals, medical entrepreneurs and students. - Dr. Suhail Chughtai, OPEN London Charter Member, chaired this conference. - Zahra Shah, OPEN London CIC Chair & President, served as a speaker on the “Using AI responsibly to make clinical decisions” panel at this conference.	Responsible AI in clinical decisions.	- More info here - View photos here
2	Partnered with the Commonwealth Businesswomen’s Network (CBWN) to host the Commonwealth Roundtable on “Why Bridging the AI Divide is a Commonwealth Imperative?” to mark London Tech Week, Commonwealth Secretariat, Marlborough House, 15 June 2026.	22 attendees across private, public and third sectors including representation from over 5 Commonwealth governments. - Zahra Shah, OPEN London CIC Chair & President, led and chaired this roundtable discussion. - Jawad Khan, OPEN London CIC Board Director, and Arif Zaman, CBWN Executive Director, and Zeba Qureshi, OPEN London CIC Executive Committee Member, contributed to this roundtable discussion.	- Report produced by Zahra Shah with key findings and recommendations from this roundtable discussion was submitted to the Commonwealth Secretariat. - Insights informed a presentation on “The Governance of Agentic AI in the Commonwealth”	- More info here. - View photos here

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Initiative Pillar				
No	Initiative	Output	Outcome	Link
			delivered at the Singapore – Commonwealth Third Country Training Programme by Zahra Shah that was attended by representatives from over 10 Commonwealth governments.	
3	Supported PSEB on the UK-Pakistan B2B Roundtable to mark London Tech Week, London, UK, 12 June 2026.	20 + attendees from across the UK and Pakistan tech sector, representatives from PSEB, FCDO, REMIT and Pakistan High Commission. - Jawad Khan, OPEN London CIC Board Director, and Zeba Qureshi, OPEN London CIC Executive Committee Member, contributed to this roundtable discussion.	UK-Pakistan B2B tech collaboration.	- More info here - View photos here
4	Supported PSEB on the UK-Pakistan Fintech and Digital Finance Roundtable to mark London Tech Week, London, UK, 10 June 2026.	20+ attendees 20 + attendees from across the UK and Pakistan Fintech sector, representatives from FCDO, REMIT, PSEB, Pakistan High Commission and the Minister for IT and Telecoms Pakistan. - Zahra Shah, OPEN London CIC Chair & President, contributed to this roundtable discussion.	UK-Pakistan Fintech collaboration.	- More info here - View photos here
5	Partnered with the Muslim Tech Festival London, UK, 6 June 2026.	2000+ attendees including founders, technologists, builders an investors.	London/ UK tech ecosystem engagement.	- More info here. - View photos here
6	Partnered with PSEB, Ministry of IT & Telecoms Pakistan and Tech Destination Pakistan under the GAIN programme, Virtual Masterclass, 4 June 2026.	25+ attendees from across the Pakistan tech eco-system under the GAIN programme and representatives from PSEB including CEO. - Zahra Shah, OPEN London CIC Chair & President, delivered a virtual masterclass on “Responsible AI, governance	AI governance capacity building.	- More info here. - View photos here

<i>Artificial Intelligence (AI) Initiative Pillar</i>				
No	Initiative	Output	Outcome	Link
		frameworks and forward-looking AI policy” to tech companies across Pakistan.		
7	<i>Partnered with PSEB on the Indus AI Week Conference, Jinnah Convention Centre, Islamabad, Pakistan, 9 to 15 February 2026.</i>	100+ attendees from across government leadership, international AI experts, industry leaders, policy makers and thought leaders. - Dr. Suhail Chughtai, OPEN London CIC Charter Member, represented OPEN London CIC at this conference.	Pakistan AI ecosystem engagement.	- More info here. - View photos here
8	<i>Partnered with the Pakistan High Commission on the “Leveraging AI for Better and Inclusive Healthcare Delivery – UK & Pakistan” Roundtable, Pakistan High Commission London, UK, 24 September 2025.</i>	22+ attendees including UK and Pakistan Ministers. - Zahra Shah, OPEN London CIC Chair & President, facilitated this roundtable and presented on “Responsible AI and Healthcare.” Speakers: - H.E. Dr. Mohammad Faisal, High Commissioner of Pakistan to the UK. - Rt. Hon. Dr. Zubair Ahmed, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Department of Health & Social Care. - Dr. Syed Mustafa Kamal, Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulation & Coordination, Pakistan. - Abu Bakar, CEO, PSEB - Rehman Qamar, Lead, NADRA - Ayesha Hussain, Lead for Data Governance, responsible AI and Data Quality, University of Leeds. - Omar Butt, Co-Founder, Vita Healthcare Solutions & Strategic Development Lead Health Innovation, Imperial College London. - Dr. Suhail Chughtai, OPEN London CIC Charter Member.	- Policy report submitted by Pakistan High Commission to the Government of Pakistan. - NADRA implementing suggestions.	- More info here. - View photos here

<i>Artificial Intelligence (AI) Initiative Pillar</i>				
No	Initiative	Output	Outcome	Link
		- Professor Jawwad Darr, Group Leader Clean Materials Technology Group, UCL. - Dr, Ghulam Murtaza, Director, Goodcare Group of Companies. - Dr. Shahid Latif, Chair, The Royal College of Psychiatrists, Trent Division. Chair: - Naila Israr, Political Councilor, Pakistan High Commission London.		
Key Outcome: Positioned OPEN London CIC as a thought leader in Responsible AI governance and policy influence at both national and Commonwealth levels.				



<i>Entrepreneurship and Professional Development Pillar</i>				
No	Initiative	Output	Outcome	Link
9	Partnered with CBWN on the “Diaspora Entrepreneurship and Economic Resilience” Roundtable to mark Commonwealth Innovation Week and Global Entrepreneurship Week, Commonwealth Secretariat, Marlborough House, 18 November 2025.	22 attendees from across the Commonwealth. - Arif Zaman, Executive Director, CBWN, chaired this roundtable discussion. - Zahra Shah, OPEN London CIC Chair & President, participated in this roundtable discussion.	Commonwealth ecosystem engagement.	- More info here - View photos here - Listen here

Entrepreneurship and Professional Development Pillar

No	Initiative	Output	Outcome	Link
10	Partnered with CBWN on the “Innovation, Investment and Economic Resilience” Roundtable to mark Commonwealth Innovation Week and Global Entrepreneurship Week, Commonwealth Secretariat, Marlborough House, 18 November 2025.	22 attendees from across the Commonwealth. - Arif Zaman, Executive Director, CBWN, chaired this roundtable discussion. - Zahra Shah, OPEN London CIC Chair & President, participated in this roundtable discussion.	Commonwealth ecosystem engagement.	- More info here - View photos here - Listen here
11	Hosted its Annual Reception: Celebrating Unconventional Journeys to Success on 11 September 2025 at Feya , London, UK, 11 September 2025.	60+ attendees including entrepreneurs, professionals and government leadership. Keynote Speaker: - Dr. Sarah Naeem, Consultant Dermatologist & Spouse of High Commissioner of Pakistan to UK. Speakers: - Hafiz Haq, OPEN London CIC Board Director. - Zahra Khan, Founder, Feya. - Ebba Qureshi, Founder & CEO, Femgames. Chair: - Zeba Qureshi, OPEN London CIC Executive Committee Member. Host: - Zahra Shah, OPEN London CIC Chair & President.	Showcased diverse entrepreneurial journeys, new and existing member engagement.	- More info here. - View photos here. - Watch video here
12	Partnered with CBWN on the “Navigating Global Currents: Resilience, Leadership and Financial Transformation” Roundtable, Commonwealth Secretariat, Marlborough House, 15 August 2025.	20+ leaders from across the Commonwealth. - Keynote speaker, Zafar Masud, Chairman, Bank of Punjab & OPEN London CIC Board Advisor. - Zahra Shah, OPEN London CIC Chair & President, and Arif Zaman, Executive Director, CBWN, co-hosted this roundtable discussion. - OPEN London CIC Charter Members, Majid Dawood, Dr. Kaukab Rajput and Dr. Naheed Khan participated in this roundtable discussion.	Financial transformation dialogue.	- More info here. - View photos here
13	Hosted an Exclusive Breakfast Session - Success Stories: UK and Pakistan	40+ attendees including entrepreneurs, professionals and business leaders.	UK-Pakistan business success insights.	More info here.

Entrepreneurship and Professional Development Pillar

No	Initiative	Output	Outcome	Link
	Companies at Visionet UK, London, UK, 31 July 2025.	Speakers: • Khurram Uqaili, Finance Director, Marks & Spencer. • Tariq Usmani, CEO, Lock Terrace Ltd. Chair: • Zahra Shah, OPEN London CIC Chair & President.		• View photos here

Key Outcome: Enhanced professional development and peer learning for entrepreneurs.



Youth and Women Empowerment Pillar

No	Initiative	Output	Outcome	Link
14	Hosted a Fireside Chat on “Scaling a Student Led Project to 7 million Students Globally”, Virtual Event, 22 April 2026.	• 50+ viewers. Speaker: Zubair Junjunia, Founder & CEO, ZNotes and OPEN London CIC Executive Committee Member. Chair: • Zahra Shah, OPEN London CIC Chair & President.	Youth entrepreneurship inspiration.	• More info here. • Watch here

<i>Youth and Women Empowerment Pillar</i>				
No	Initiative	Output	Outcome	Link
15	Partnered with CBWN and OPEN Global hosted the “Moving Beyond Rights on Paper” Roundtable to mark international women’s history month, Commonwealth Small States Office, New York, USA, 18 March 2026.	20+ global leaders. - Arif Zaman, Executive Director, CBWN & OPEN London CIC Board Director, Tariq Khan, OPEN Global President, and Naila Qazi, OPEN Global Women’s Initiative Lead, participated in this roundtable discussion.	- UN-level women’s advocacy. - Press release including report from this roundtable by Arif Zaman was published on the OPEN London CIC website and social media platforms.	- More info here. - View photos here. - Read press release here
16	Partnered with OPEN Global Women on the “Women Leading Beyond Borders” to mark international women’s history month, Virtual Event, 7 March 2026.	50+ participants from across the globe. Keynote Speakers: - Kaloom Lakhani, Co-Founder & General Partner i2i Ventures. - Fouzia Younis, Diplomat, FCDO. Speakers: - Sahar Halim, President, HalTrans Inc. - Cynthia Egbunonu, AI Expert. - Majid Dawood, OPEN London Board Advisor. - Abu Bakar, CEO, PSEB. - Sayyed Ahmad Masud, Director, Change Mechanics Pvt Ltd. Chair: - Zahra Shah, OPEN London Chair & President.	Women’s leadership dialogue.	- More info here. - View photos here
17	Partnered with APWA UK on the “Inspiring Women Journeys’ event, Pakistan High Commission, London, UK, 7 December 2025.	100+ attendees. - Zahra Shah, OPEN London CIC Chair & President, served as a speaker. - Dr. Sarah Naeem, Spouse of the High Commissioner of Pakistan to the UK, served as the keynote speaker.	British Pakistani women empowerment.	- More info here. - View photos here

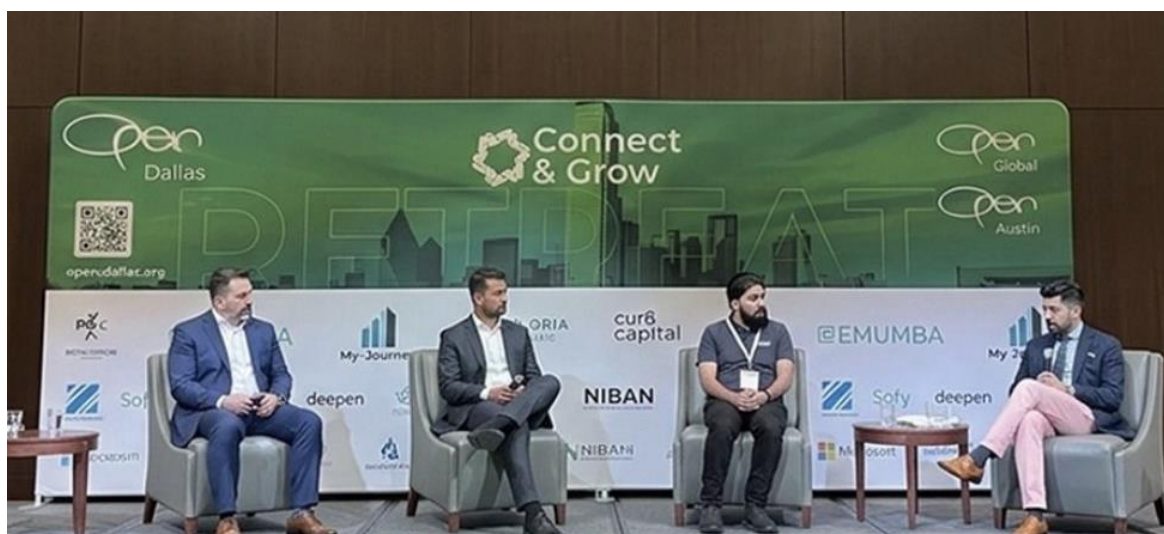
Youth and Women Empowerment Pillar

No	Initiative	Output	Outcome	Link
18	Partnered with OPEN Global Women under Transatlantic Initiative (TAI) to mark Global Entrepreneurship Week, Virtual Event, 22 November 2025.	50+ participants from across the globe. Keynote Speakers: - Syra Madad, Chief Biopreparedness Officer, NYC Health & Hospitals. - Marion Brooks VP & US Country Head, People Experience, Novartis. Speakers: - Zahra Shah, OPEN London CIC Chair & President. - Azra Raza, Professor of Medicine, Columbia University. - Noureen Syed, Executive Counsellor, Info-Tech Research Group. - Donna Mitchell, CEO, Mitchell Universal Network LLC. Chairs: - Rabia Shafi, CEO, Rabia Shafi Consulting Inc. - Samina Farid, Managing Director, Golden Seeds. - Faiza Haseeb, VP Central Operations, Alpine Physician Partners. - Junaid Qureshi, Co-Founder & Managing Partner, MDI Fund. - Zainab Jeewanjee, Partner, Insure123 Insurance Agency Inc. Host: - Naila Qazi, OPEN Global Women's Initiative Lead.	Women entrepreneurship inspiration, connection, and engagement.	- More info here - View photos here - Listen here
19	Partnered with Bloomsbury Institute London and St. Claudine Catholic School for Girls under the Youth Initiative on the Year 10	60+ students. - Zahra Shah, OPEN London CIC Chair & President and Arif Zaman, OPEN London	Youth entrepreneurial skills.	More info here.

Youth and Women Empowerment Pillar

No	Initiative	Output	Outcome	Link
	Enterprise Day – Think like an Entrepreneur, London, UK, 16 July 2025.	CIC Board Director served as a speakers and mentors.		View photos here

Key Outcome: Advanced gender equality and youth entrepreneurship through targeted initiatives.



Transatlantic Initiative (TAI) Pillar

No	Initiative	Output	Outcome	Link
20	Supported OPEN Silicon Valley Reimaging Finance in the Age of AI Conference, Computer History Museum, Silicon Valley, USA, 27 June 2026	100+ attendees	US-UK tech connections and engagement.	- More info here. - View photos here
21	Supported OPEN Silicon Valley Synergy Leadership Conference, Computer History Museum, Silicon Valley, USA, 30 May 2026	100+ attendees. - Dr. Suhail Chughtai, OPEN London CIC Charter Member, represented OPEN London CIC at this conference.	Leadership network expansion.	- More info here. - View photos here
22	Supported OPEN Global Annual Retreat, Dallas, USA, 17-19 April 2026	300+ attendees - Omar Majid, OPEN London CIC Charter Member, chaired the “Venture capital and private equity” panel at this conference.	Cross-chapter collaboration.	- More info here. - View photos here

<i>Transatlantic Initiative (TAI) Pillar</i>				
No	Initiative	Output	Outcome	Link
		Dr. Suhail Chughtai, OPEN London CIC Charter Member, also participated in the annual retreat to represent OPEN London CIC.		
23	<i>Partnered with OPEN Global on the OPEN Silicon Valley Biotech and Healthcare Forum, UC Berkeley, Silicon Valley, USA, 14 February 2026.</i>	100+ attendees.	Healthcare innovation connections and engagement.	- More info here. - View photos here
24	<i>Supported OPEN Global Tax and Estate Planning for Entrepreneurs, Virtual Event, 24 January 2026</i>	50+ participants. <i>Speaker:</i> - Keviin Shah, Wealth Manager, Wall Street Alliance Group. <i>Chair:</i> - Tariq Khan, OPEN Global President.	Entrepreneur financial literacy.	- More info here. - View photos here
25	<i>Partnered with OPEN Global on the OPEN Silicon Valley Annual Forum, Santa Clara Convention Center, Silicon Valley, USA, 9 November 2025.</i>	100+ attendees.	AI, tech, and innovation connections.	- More info here. - View photos here
Key Outcome: Strengthened UK-US commercial ties through knowledge exchange and network building.				

Finance and Governance Overview

Financial Position (Period: 28 June 2024 to 30 June 2025)

Balance Sheet Summary (Based on the latest unaudited financial statements filed with Companies House [here](#)):

Item	Amount (£)
Current Assets	5,433
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(2,534)
Net current assets/ (liabilities)	2,899
Total assets less current liabilities	2,899
Net assets	2,899
Capital and reserves	2,899

Key Financial Information

- **Company Status: Community Interest Company (CIC):**¹⁵ Limited by guarantee and, registered in England and Wales (Company Number: 15807691).
- **Members:** 5 members as of the balance sheet date, each liable for a maximum of £1 in the event of winding up.
- **Audit Status:** Exempt from audit under section 477 of the **Companies Act 2006** (small company)¹⁶.
- **Directors' Remuneration:** No director received any remuneration or benefits during the financial year.
- **Asset Transfers:** No transfers of assets other than for full consideration were made.
- **Stakeholder Consultation:** Feedback gathered through programmes/ events has informed planning for cross-border collaboration, targeted workshops, and support for young entrepreneurs, professionals, and women.

(Note: Full financial statements and accounts are maintained in accordance with CIC regulations and are available upon request. The accounts for the most recent year have not yet been filed at Companies House).

Governance

OPEN London CIC operates under the governance framework established at incorporation:

- **Board of Directors:** Oversee management, governance and strategic direction (5 members).
- **Board Advisors & Executive Committee:** Provide specialist expertise and lead programme delivery respectively.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** All governance complies with the **CIC regulatory requirements**¹⁷ and the company operates as a **micro-entity under FRS 105**¹⁸.

Partnership Value

In-kind and strategic partnerships provided significant value:

Partner Category	Value Delivered
Venue partners	Event spaces
Knowledge partners	Expert speakers
Institutional partners	Network access
Media partners	Distribution channels
Government partners	Policy influence

¹⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-interest-companies-how-to-form-a-cic/community-interest-companies-guidance-chapters>

¹⁶ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/46/contents>

¹⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-of-the-regulator-of-community-interest-companies>

¹⁸ <https://www.frc.org.uk/library/standards-codes-policy/accounting-and-reporting/uk-accounting-standards/frs-105/>

Challenges and Lessons Learned

What Did Not Go as Planned

Resource Limitations	
Challenge	Lesson
Limited paid capacity constrained programme scaling.	Need to diversify funding sources in Year 2.
Digital vs. In-Person Engagement	
Challenge	Lesson
Virtual events achieved strong reach, but in-person attendance requires more development.	<i>A hybrid model is essential for maximum impact.</i>
Impact Measurement	
Challenge	Lesson
Early-stage metrics collection systems were informal.	A refined KPI framework has been implemented for Year 2.
Institutional Navigation	
Challenge	Lesson
Building relationships with key stakeholders takes time.	Invest in sustained relationship management.

Lessons Learned

- **Trust is Currency**: The strength of OPEN's global network enables quick connections; maintaining trust is paramount.
- **Outcome Focus**: Activities must be designed with clear outcomes from the outset.
- **Partnership Leverage**: Strategic partnerships amplify impact beyond direct resources.
- **Digital Presence**: Content creation (podcasts, social media) builds visibility and credibility.
- **Measurable Impact**: Data-driven reporting is essential for credibility and growth.
- **Policy Influence**: Convening power can translate into tangible policy outcomes when the right stakeholders are engaged.

Future Plans and Strategic Priorities

OPEN London CIC is poised to deepen its impact through a strategic expansion of our flagship programmes and initiatives. We will focus on three strategic priorities for 2026-2027:

- **Cross-Border Collaboration:** Expand global reach by connecting professionals and entrepreneurs from the underrepresented communities, focusing on the UK-North America-Pakistan corridors. **Target: 6+ programme initiatives.**
- **Entrepreneur Support:** Provide targeted support through panels, roundtables, and masterclasses covering startup strategies, financial modelling, and investment readiness. **Target: 60+ organizations supported.**
- **Youth and Women Empowerment:** Address the gender gap through targeted networking and mentoring, enabling access to capital, connections, and coaching. **Target: 65+ mentorships.**

Quantified Goals for 2026-2027

<i>Priority</i>	<i>Target</i>
Programme initiatives	25+
Mentorships	65+
Organizations supported	60+
Fireside Chats	2+
Partnerships	12+
Funding secured	£5000+
Investment showcase events	1+
Policy reports submitted	2+

New Initiatives

- **Peer-to-Peer Investment Showcase:** Connecting entrepreneurs with potential investors.
- **Expanded Firechat Series:** Expanding the Fireside chat series to provide broader thought leadership.
- **Enhanced Mentorship Platform:** Implementing structured matching and tracking.
- **Youth Entrepreneurship Programme:** Expanding school/ university engagement.
- **Women's Leadership Programme:** Providing targeted development and networking.

Our Partners

We are very grateful to all Partners for their support without whom we could not continue our valuable work to empower our global community across the UK, North America, Middle East, and Pakistan.

